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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ They can transport by bullock carts.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Bullock carts are not so easily available.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Are you pressing your motion ? ”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ I wanted to elicit information so that people might make representations later on.”

The motion was not pressed.

III.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR FURTHER EXPENDITURE IN THE YEAR 1947-48.

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ I would refer to the capital outlay on electricity schemes. In page 29 of the Demands for Grants for further Expenditure and Detailed Supplementary Estimates thereof for the year 1947-48, it is stated as follows :—

‘ Item (iii) (a) The Government have sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 39.8 lakhs, rising to Rs. 41 lakhs in eight years for the construction of additional lines and sub-stations in the Mettur Hydro-Electric System to improve the present supply conditions and to serve new special loads anticipated in the Trichinopoly-Dalmianagar areas. This is a post-war development scheme. As the existing 66,000 volts double circuit line between Erode and Trichinopoly is overloaded, a third circuit for operation at 110,000 volts is to be constructed, etc.. etc. With these extensions, it will be possible to meet the anticipated further demands for power of the South Indian Railway, the cement factory and the electric licensee in Trichinopoly area.’

“ I would like to know why this expansion should not be for the benefit of agriculture and specially for irrigation. That is the point. There is the question of priority for food. Then why should these South Indian Railway and the Cement Factory alone get priority?

“ Then I would refer to item (b) of the above where the Government have also sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 24 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 29.5 lakhs within eight years, for a 66/110 K.V. extension scheme in Salem district, Mettur Hydro-Electric System.”

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“ It has been stated that the scheme will meet the agricultural industrial and rural development loads of the areas. My point is that it may be that after all only about two per cent of the load will be made available to agriculture; so I wish to know what percentage will be available for each item. The method of putting things in such a way ought to be avoided and it must be definitely stated what proportion you are going to allot for each purpose. The next point I would ask is whether you should not delete industrial purposes altogether and the whole thing allowed for agriculture only.

“ Coming to items (iv) and (v) on page 29 of the printed memorandum, it is seen that about 44 lakhs of rupees are involved. Even here the Government have stated that ‘ the scheme is intended to meet the large demand for power that has arisen in the Tenkasi, Rajapalayam and Tirumangalam areas, especially for agricultural and industrial requirements ’. You will ultimately find that the

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number of villages served so far as agricultural purposes are concerned will be two or three. Therefore, it is that I am suggesting : Why not delete this industrial purpose altogether and confine your attention only to matters of production of more and more food.

“ The next item, item (vi) is for the Hindur Electric Distribution Scheme; the initial estimate is Rs. 4.92 lakhs rising to 9.75 lakhs in ten years. I believe this is a matter which was referred to by Mr. Prakasam. You are taking up scheme which is running into lakhs though you are taking only Rs. 100 as token grant. There must be some material on hand and what is that material; how much of it you are going to take for this purpose and how much of it are you going to divert for agriculture. It would be better for the Hon. the Ministers for Agriculture and Food to say what they have on hand to be put to use immediately instead of saying for how much they have ordered from America. My question is : Why not the entire thing be taken up for agricultural purposes; so that agriculture alone may be developed. That is why I am glad to see that they are about to purchase 100 oil engines though it has not been referred to here. I wish to know from the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture whether this number is in excess of the number required or whether it falls below estimate of requirements. How many applications have been received, how many will be provided and if there are more applicants than the engines ordered, what steps will be taken to supply the whole number, what the price is that is fixed—these are all points upon which I would expect a reply from the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture. During the war, you have heard of the talks among the Ministers whether tanks will have precedence or aeroplanes will have precedence. It all depends ultimately upon the Minister concerned. A number of claims will be made upon the Hon. the Finance Minister; but the real question that must guide and influence the decision is whether a particular grant is required for improvement of agriculture if so, it must have a precedence over the rest. There is also this Dalmianagar business; at any rate let us have nothing of ‘nagar’ business for the future; we have spent crores upon this nagar business and let us in the future at least devote our attention to agriculture only, so that we may step up production.

“ My next observation refers to prohibition, that is my pet scheme. We have heard the famous saying that someone blunders and the cannon thunders. Somebody commits a fault and somebody else is mowed down.”

(At this stage Mr. Chairman, Mr. H. M. Jagannatham occupied the Chair.)

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ The casualty to the revenues of this Province on account of this cannonade is about 16 crores. In addition, we have a supplemental list of casualties. You see that the number of Prohibition Guards is to be increased costing about half a lakh of rupees. On page 7, you see that they propose to spend to the tune of seven lakhs, for they want the

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drinkers not only to be prevented from drinking but they want to tip them also. There are other things which are discontinued as a result of this blundering cannonade. The mid-day meal is to be given up. When you go to public health, page 12 of the memorandum, you see the other victims of this cannonade. Item (ii) makes painful reading :—

‘According to the post-war plan of the Government, it was originally proposed that 450 public health units, 45 group centres and 270 combined medical and public health primary centres should be started during the first quinquennium of the post-war period. But in view of the present need for economy, it has been decided to reduce the combined medical and public health primary centres from 270 to 150 and the group centres from 45 to 25 with no separate public health units.’

On account of your pet scheme, you see all these happening. Somebody blunders; we have got to blunder and correct ourselves ultimately. Here in this particular thing, you have been saying that others will have to be corrected but I say to you, Sir, it is the authors of this pet scheme that will have ultimately to be corrected not the others.

“Lastly, I come to ‘forests’. As you see, 75,000 acres are going to be taken up for growing casuarina for supply of firewood for a factory for producing sulphate of ammonia and another 75,000 for firewood purposes. Just as Gandhi cap is a key to politics, for this agriculture business manure is the key. Manure is required and so by all means take to making it in larger and larger quantities. I say, Sir, the whole thing is a camouflage; why not say that the whole thing is required for firewood? It is as though you are going to make available the produce from these plantations to such of those as burn cattle dung as fuel only? Let us take the costs; I feel this is merely to announce a colossal expenditure to the tune of 3 to 5 crores of rupees while an innocuous amount of Rs. 100 only has been announced. This small sum is shown here but eventually, it will grow to be a monster. I would much rather wish that the Government re-examine the whole question so as to see that the scheme might be put into effect for producing the manure which is so essential for agriculture, rather than saying that part is for production of firewood and part to conserve the cattle dung manure for use as manure instead of its being uselessly burnt away.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Mr. Chairman, speaking on the supplementary demands presented almost at the end of the official year, I pleaded that the Finance Minister should be the watch-dog of the finances of the Province. So far as these supplementary demands are concerned, I must thank the Hon. the Finance Minister for having responded to our appeal; I hope that when he brings the supplementary demands during March next, they will be as modest and reasonable as the present ones are. I am grateful to the Hon. the Finance Minister that, in spite of the opinion of his Finance Secretary that unless the total expenditure authorized for the year is less than that incurred that the Government need not place the supplementary statement of expenditure before the Legislature he has still been good enough to follow the same procedure in regard to supplementary demands as he is bound to do in regard to the annual financial statement. I hope,

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Sir, that he will also observe that even in regard to recurring and non-recurring expenditure which I understand, Sir, is permissible up to Rs. 10,000 per annum recurring and Rs. 20,000 non-recurring he would not spend until he obtains the vote of the Legislature. He will also continue to seek the permission of the Legislature not only for further expenditure but also for expenditure on new services. There are 25 demands and one is tempted to make observations on each of them and in fact, on each of the items. I am sure there will be many hon. Members anxious to speak on these supplementary demands as this is the only occasion when this House has an opportunity to express its views. So I shall confine myself to a few items in which I am interested.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Naryanaswami Nayudu referred to prohibition ameliorative work. I am one of those who feel that this is a sheer waste of money, but on grounds directly opposed to those of my hon. friend. I had been to the districts where this so-called ameliorative work is going on. This work is not necessary at all if under the name of ameliorative work propaganda is to be done in favour of prohibition. There is no need for such propaganda; I am sure about it. Our country never requires to be educated about prohibition, though perhaps an exception may have to be made as in the case of gentlemen like my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu. Villagers are for prohibition; and even the taking of drink stealthily is considered a crime. Further what is the kind of propaganda you are going to do with one ballad singer, one special development officer and one taluk development officer; what is the work that these people can do when a large area has to be covered? By all means, start Grama Sanghs and assist them with grants; ask people of the locality to collect and promise them amounts equal to the sums collected and let them do ameliorative work in the villages. Unless you enlist public support and unless the people of the locality become interested in prohibition ameliorative work even assistance in tracing cases of illicit distillation will be difficult. The Hon. Minister himself knows that in most of these districts illicit tapping is practically nil. The poor man is law abiding. If illicit distillation exists it is because of the rich man. It is he that employs people to do this illicit distillation for him. Your propaganda is not going to influence him. If Congress propaganda did not affect him, why waste this 6 lakhs or 7 lakhs of rupees, and another 7 lakhs of rupees for the eight districts where prohibition had already been introduced, altogether about Rs. 16 lakhs merely for the sake of maintaining a staff whose work will not produce any appreciable effect on the population. I have already written to the Hon. Prime Minister that I am prepared to meet the officers who are in charge of this work and discuss with them and show how unremunerative and unnecessary this work is. By all means assist the local people to organize themselves to put down illicit distillation and to do some social work and improve those that are addicted to drink so that some definite results may be achieved, and the people of the locality also may feel that they are associated

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in this great task of sponsoring Prohibition and making it a success. As it is, these officers go about once in a way. They cannot be everywhere always. I realize their difficulty. I do not blame the officers if they are not able to show adequate results, nor do I blame the people if they do not show adequate response. If the people are approached in a proper way, they will be quite willing to assist the Government in this great work. This item, the sooner it is omitted from the budget, the better for all concerned. The Hon. the Minister for Prohibition has appointed a committee, and I find that one of the terms of reference to the committee is to examine the scope and extent of ameliorative work. There is no necessity for this kind of work, especially in a country like ours. I hope, when that committee's report is received, the Hon. Minister will not hesitate to do away with this item.

"Sir, it has been my misfortune that whenever I spoke on 'Education,' the Hon. Minister for Education would not be present. This time I am fortunate enough to have him here. (Hear, hear.) I shall now deal with that subject, i.e., a subject in which I take some interest. The Hon. Minister is so keen on spending lakhs of rupees in converting the second-grade college at Tellicherry into a first-grade college, in maintaining a college for Muslim women where there is not sufficient number of students, and also in taking over the women's college at Guntur. Let me not be understood as being opposed to any of the proposals referred to by me. I quote them as mere examples. But when the people of Cuddapah approached him to start a college at Cuddapah, he asked them to collect some lakhs of rupees. Sir, we would have collected some lakhs if seasonal conditions were normal. But we are suffering often from famine. People who can afford to subscribe are few. If the Hon. Minister for Public Works to-morrow undertakes the Gandikota project and finishes it within ten or fifteen years we will be able to give you not Rs. 2 lakhs but even Rs. 10 lakhs. But conditions are now so bad. I am sorry to see that the Government should insist on a large amount being subscribed to start that college. We have not got the Nizam of Hyderabad for getting money as was done for the Kurnool College. I wish, Sir, the Hon. Minister would not impose such conditions but will in the next budget provide for a Government college at Cuddapah.

"Now, Sir, a word about the college for Muslim women. I am totally against communal colleges. What surprises me is that the Hon. Minister looked into the matter, found out that it was not worthwhile maintaining that college, even passed orders making changes in personnel, but suddenly he seems to have got some intuition (something which made him cancel that order), and issued orders for the retention of that college. Having started a college we would not like to abolish it. But how does he now justify his action? I am not against colleges where sufficient number of students take advantage. But, when there was no need for a first-grade college, it was started. But that was only an experiment. Unfortunately, the experiment failed and wisely the

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Hon. Minister came to the conclusion to abolish it. Instead of sticking to his decision, I am afraid, Sir, that he has yielded to importunities of the community to retain that college.

" I now come to the Engineering College at Anantapur to which reference has been made in the budget. I would ask the Hon. Minister what active steps he has taken to shift the college to Anantapur. So long as the college is not shifted to Anantapur and necessary buildings and equipment are not provided, the Vice-Chancellor of the University is not going to give recognition, and he is perfectly justified in doing so. I know, Sir, there is a dehydration factory there. It was about to be auctioned, and I understand the Government of Madras stopped the auction. I would like the Hon. Minister to take a personal interest in the transaction and see that it is completed as soon as possible. I have seen the place more than once. It is very suitable for a college, and the sooner it is taken charge of and the college shifted to that place, the better it would be for the Guindy college as well as for the other college. I have heard that Government had issued instructions that for next year, i.e., 1948-49, no proposals should be sent by the Principal of the Guindy College for any additional staff required for the Anantapur college. If this is not so, I would like to be corrected, because it gives the impression that the idea of Government is to abandon the Engineering college at Anantapur. I hope the rumour is false. Anyhow, I thought it best to take advantage of this opportunity and bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Education. I hope he would give as much consideration to that college as he would give to the Guindy college.

" I now come to a subject on which I am not tired of harping, namely, the scales of pay of teachers. I am afraid the Hon. Minister for Education, in spite of herculean efforts made by everyone, still sticks to the position that there should be a distinction between teachers employed in Government schools, teachers employed under local bodies, and teachers employed in aided institutions, a distinction, which, I am not tired of repeating, even the Advisers' Government recognized as unnatural and unnecessary. Why then the Hon. Minister should stick to, what I consider, the old idea that these agencies are different? Are they not equally contributing for the spread of education? Believing that there should be a distinction between the agencies, he has fixed different scales of salaries for these teachers. I need not go into them now. But I would like to point out the latest Government Order, dated June 1947, in which he yielded to the clamour of the teachers of the aided schools and announced again a revision in the scale of salaries which he announced in May 1947. He has also announced that he was trying to bring the salaries of teachers in aided schools at least to the level of those working under the local bodies. He lays down that managements would be compelled to increase the minimum salary to Rs. 40 in the case of

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secondary grade teachers and to Rs. 30 in the case of higher elementary grade teachers. How are the managements, who are not in a position to run their schools properly, to provide the additional funds required to make up the extra 5 rupees in the case of secondary grade teachers, and I think a similar amount in the case of higher elementary grade teachers? Where are they to go? Under the rules governing the grants to elementary schools, the managements are allowed to keep 15 per cent of the grant for their own expenses. How can they retain this 15 per cent if they are to pay an increase in the salaries of the teachers? How will they be able to find this amount from out of this 15 per cent? Practically what will happen is that many of these aided agencies will not give this increased salary, or they will take false receipts to show that they have paid the increased salaries. Many of the honest managements may even close down their schools. Is it the intention of the Hon. Minister to promote education by insisting upon a condition which he himself knows full well that the managements will not be in a position to fulfil? I have been urging that whatever extra expenditure is incurred on account of increased salaries by the managements or by the local bodies should be made good by Government. By all means impose any conditions you like on the managements as well as on the local bodies regarding the expenditure to be incurred in regard to salaries and other things. But pray do not impose on them an obligation which they are not in a position to fulfil.

"I now come to elementary schools under local bodies. I am sure the Hon. Minister for Local Administration is interested in this subject. The extra cost on account of increased salaries to teachers is supposed to be 6 lakhs of rupees. The Hon. Minister for Education—I do not know if he had consulted the Hon. Minister for Local Administration—has laid down that the local bodies themselves should find this 6 lakhs of rupees. How are they to meet this increased expenditure? Sir, I have some figures from local bodies in my five districts of Rayalaseema where they have raised the education cess. The extra expenditure on account of the introduction of revised scales of pay is as follows:—

Rs. 1,57,000 in Kurnool.

Rs. 1,30,000 in Anantapur.

Rs. 1,67,000 in Chittoor.

Rs. 1,63,000 in Nellore (I have included Nellore also though they may not care to come under Rayalaseema),

Rs. 91,000 in Cuddapah, and

Rs. 91,000 in Bellary.

The local boards must find this extra money. It is true the local boards are now under the Collectors. They can now sit and pass resolutions raising the education cess, and in these districts they

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have already done so. The amounts expected to be realized in this way came to Rs. 60,000, Rs. 15,000, Rs. 28,000, Rs. 52,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 30,000 respectively in the seven districts referred to. And how are they to find the money for increased salary sanctioned? Above all, I think the Hon. Education Minister expects them to raise this education cess in order to finance schemes of compulsory education, which each local board is to undertake. But how are they to undertake that as well as pay the revised scales of salary? I do not know. I fear they must close down some schools, not for want of teachers like dispensaries which were closed for want of doctors, but for want of finance. And what is the fate of education under such local boards? I wish, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Education would look into these things and examine the finances of all local boards, before he passes such an order like this one asking them to find extra money. Under secondary schools, the extra expenditure comes to 2 lakhs, of which Government will pay only one lakh; and the local boards will have to find the remaining one lakh. The Hon. Minister for Education has also tried to augment the resources of these local bodies by way of increased school fees; for the number of instalments also has been increased. I ask, is that the method of promoting secondary education? In all countries secondary education is being imparted free; but in our country it is being made more costly, so that people may continue to be ignorant always! Otherwise what is the meaning of the recent order about contribution towards visual instruction? That is another burden on the poor parent. Where are the poor parents to go for all this money, in these hard days when their income has not risen in proportion to the rise in the cost of living. But, Sir, it cannot be gainsaid, in spite of all this, to-day the demand for admission into schools is increasing. (Laughter.) That is because, people have realized the value of education. People are willing to make sacrifices for the education of their children; but there is a limit for such sacrifices. I would like the Hon. Minister for Education to place himself in the position of poor parents and examine the budget of the parents. Unfortunately, Sir, he is not a parent. (Laughter.) I know he is the guardian of many young boys who are reading in the schools. If he examines the budgets of the parents of those boys he will realize how difficult it is for those parents to live by sacrificing everything for the sake of education of their boys. Not only that: many parents are prepared to sacrifice any amount for the education of their girls. As I said, there is a limit for this. I would like that these aspects of the question are examined and remedied. Increased school fees and other methods employed cannot provide extra money or fund to the local boards to any appreciable extent. The funds must be found only from the common exchequer."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is already running into deficit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I am sure if the Hon. Finance Minister and his Colleagues, sit down and examine

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items of expenditure now incurred, such as the one I named, ameliorative work in connexion with Prohibition, they can limit their expenditure in several ways, and then will be available sufficient funds to be spent on useful objects. People are willing to be taxed if only you do not do things like increasing the school fees and levy of contribution for visual instruction. Sir, a popular Government can appeal to the people in times of adversity for support and can get their support for their schemes, which may involve even in additional taxation. Of course, my friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu will say, and I know many teachers are saying the same thing, 'why this costly experiment of Prohibition just now, why not Government wait for some time, why not they first feed the stomachs which are hungry, why do they not do that first, and then think of other schemes of social amelioration?' Unfortunately when you have a teacher starving you cannot expect him to impart education satisfactorily to the children committed to his care. The sum of Rs. 40 or Rs. 45 now paid to him has no relation to the cost of living now prevailing. It is no consolation to them to know that you realize their difficulty and sympathize with their lot. Rupees 40 or Rs. 45 in the City of Madras! Is it enough for a teacher? Or for the matter of that in the City of Madura, or in the town of Coimbatore? How can a teacher lead his life there? He does not ask for a high standard of life. He wants only to lead a simple life. Even the simple necessities of life cost him very much nowadays. Why not Government take into account all these factors and do something? Otherwise progress in education will be retarded.

"I do not want to take up the time of the House any further except to say some words with regard to irrigation. I am afraid, with due deference to my friends from the Andhra districts, this Ramapadasagar project is engaging the attention of Government too much, the repercussions of which, we are feeling much more in the Ceded districts than in the other districts. The engineering personnel available is limited, and the best of them are diverted to the Ramapadasagar project. And what is to be the fate of minor schemes such as repairing channels and small irrigation schemes costing four to five lakhs which will bring some succour to the people who have been suffering from famine. I mention this, not that I am against the big scheme; by all means let it come; but a certain amount of priority should be given. I am sure at this rate the Gandikota project which is expected to be finished in a shorter time, will never be undertaken; nor the Upper Pennar project in the Ceded districts; because all the available technical personnel are diverted to this big Ramapadasagar project. I would request Government to sit and examine the several schemes and arrange them in the order of priority every year and allow schemes to be executed for areas which have been neglected so far for some reason or other and thus bring some amount of prosperity to those areas; even if it should put off a few years more for the completion of the Ramapadasagar. Sir, most of our

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projects can be done within a limited period of time, and consequent on that, food production will be increased much more rapidly than if we wait till the completion of the Ramapadasagar scheme. I make this observation with a great deal of hesitation, hoping that the Hon. Minister for Public Works, who knows my feelings in the matter, will see that no projects, small and useful, are neglected for the sake of this Ramapadasagar, that the personnel required for these small projects, which will give immediate results be not transferred to other areas and that big schemes which will take years to complete be perhaps not accelerated. Every day you see in the Gazette a certain engineer, so and so, is transferred to work in the Ramapadasagar scheme. I say, this should be stopped. The Tungabhadra project, which is now accelerated from eight years to five years, must be completed within the next four years, and the Government should not under any circumstances delay its completion.

"Sir, I do not want to say anything on the other items of expenditure except to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Food to the last item, item No. 25, grants to the Provincial Co-operative Bank. It was very good of the Government to have gone to the rescue of the Provincial Co-operative Bank, which occupies a unique position. Within a short time, I am sure, they have repaid you back the sum of two crores you gave. The District Central Store, similarly, may need a short-term advance before they secure funds from the Provincial Bank through the District Bank. As I said in the food debate, the Government may authorize the Collector or the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to make advances to these Central Co-operative Societies engaged in procurement operations so that those operations are not hindered but on the other hand accelerated."

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* SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demand. As the previous speaker said, this is the only occasion for us here for criticising the policy of the Government. I am particularly interested in one of the several problems coming up before us here in this House, I mean, Labour problems which have to be successfully tackled and solved. It has always been the bad fate of the Miscellaneous Demand to come up last for discussion, and I am afraid, it has never come up for discussion before legislators in the past. It is in that Demand, the Labour Department finds a place. So I do not wish to lose the opportunity now given to me to say a few words regarding the labour policy of Government. If there is any problem confronting the Government which is as important as any other it is the labour problem. We are talking of grow more food, we are thinking of accelerating the pace of the development of industries for the prosperity of the country. But without a contented labour it is impossible to secure the objects which we have set before ourselves. We know that especially after the war, labour is discontented and rightly discontented throughout the country. The workers have suffered

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during the war and they have been looking forward for the improvement of their living conditions. Sir, the Government of Madras have not yet cared to link themselves with the index number of the cost of living for the payment of dearness allowance to their employees. They have been paying a dearness allowance fixed on an arbitrary basis. When private employers are paying to-day Rs. 32 and more than that, the Government have not cared to even consider the necessity of increasing the Rs. 16 which they have been giving since 1944."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" On a point of order, Sir, we are now discussing the supplementary demands and this is not a general discussion of the budget. Now the discussion must be confined to the subjects for which demands have been made. There is no demand now for labour."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannathan) :—" Mr. Sarma will please adhere to the point. This is a general discussion."

* SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" Mr. Chairman, I will confine myself to a very few points. My point is that the Government ought to have included a demand which would have enabled them to give a larger dearness allowance. (Laughter.) Sir, the Salaries Committee made several recommendations and some of them have been given effect to. But the real difficulty is that those recommendations which concern a large number of workers who are classified as contingent and work-charged establishments and so forth have not at all received the attention of the Government and it is being eternally postponed. For example, there is a demand here in the Supplementary Budget for increasing the staff in the General Hospital, in the laundry and other branches. Because those workers are regarded as work-charged and contingent even the recommendations made by the Salaries Sub-Committee have not yet been implemented. I think, Sir, that there should have been a demand here for implementing the recommendations of the Salaries Committee in regard to the contingent, temporary, work-charged and other classifications of workers employed in the hospitals. Sir, the laundry cannot be improved and the departments cannot be improved unless the lot of the workers is improved. Only one word more and I shall finish.

" Industrial discontent in the Province has got to be effectively tackled. Adjudications are granted sometimes without properly studying the dispute and without carefully going into the issues of the disputes and before conciliation methods have been tried. Before making themselves sure that conciliation methods have been tried, the Government issue Government Orders saying that conciliation has failed and therefore the dispute has been referred to adjudication and many contradictory situations are created. The disputes are often not gone into carefully and adjudications are haphazardly granted. This would do no good. The Government of Madras have not definitely and clearly laid down their labour policy. They were thinking of a tripartite conference. It was postponed and we have not heard about it since. I am sure, Sir,

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the Hon. Minister in charge of Labour would tell us what has happened to the tripartite conference which he proposed to summon. Because they have no definite procedure laid down, these industrial tribunals and adjudicators give all kinds of decisions which affect labour adversely instead of helping them forward. The Government of India Salaries Commission have laid down that house allowance should be given to the workers. The Government of Madras have also come forward to grant it. But one industrial tribunal says that house allowance need not be given to the workers.

“ Sir, retired officials with one foot in the grave who have had no touch with the labour problem, and who have spent all their lives either as Revenue Inspectors or Collectors or in some similar capacities, are appointed to deal with the industrial questions, which require modern experience and require to be very carefully gone into. This results in intensifying labour discontent in the province because they give all sorts of haphazard decisions one conflicting with the other. It is, therefore, time that the Government lay down definitely their labour policy which might guide the proceedings and the decisions of these industrial tribunals. I thank you, Sir.”

* SRI K. NATARAJAN :—“ Sir, I want to urge two or three points in connexion with this supplementary budget in this debate. The first point which I want to urge is this: Sir, whoever may be in charge of any particular department, I think it is necessary that some responsible officer of the Government must be perpetually checking whether the expenditure has been incurred, if so, to what extent and whether there has been any delay in making that expenditure consistent with the promptitude with which that expenditure ought to be incurred and at once to call upon the officers concerned to say why there has been any delay and if it was avoidable. I think, more than the starting of any other new department or a new office, that kind of inspection would be an aid to the Ministers, if they start an office like this with a gentleman at the head of it, who will check whether the various items of expenditure have been incurred. Now, I will make my point clear by referring to one circumstance. Of course, I have no experience of any other place but in Tanjore I can give an illustration and I can also tell this Hon. House that on reports I understand such vagaries, I cannot call them vagaries, such imperfections exist.

“ The first case that I want to cite is this: On 1st January 1947, enhanced salaries were sanctioned by the Government to non-gazetted officers and the non-gazetted officers include many gentlemen who are serving in many departments. As far as the Assistant Commissioner of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, West Tanjore, is concerned, there are many clerks in his office, to whom the old scale has been modified and a new revised scale of pay has been sanctioned. There are several posts in that

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office, such as the Junior Superintendents, Senior Superintendents and so on. This sanction has been made as early as 1st January 1947 and many other non-gazetted officers and also persons in the local bodies and municipal departments have been receiving, or have already received, the benefits of this increased pay. So far as the clerks of this office, namely, the Assistant Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board are concerned, I understand that they have not yet received the benefit of the order sanctioning the increased salary”

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham) :—“ Order, order.”

* SRI K. NATARAJAN :—“ No doubt, they have received one month's salary as bonus and they have received an interim relief but the other portions of the proper increased salary have not yet been paid to them. What I say is that such things exist in many places. Therefore, instead of organizing new offices for other ventures, I will suggest that so far as the Hon. Ministers who have to deal with each department are concerned, an officer may be asked to supervise the several items of expenditure, whether they have been incurred and to what extent they have been incurred and if there is any delay, whether there are any reasons for delay and whether those reasons are satisfactory. That is why, Sir, I have taken this illustration.

“ The second point which I want to urge is this, namely : So far as irrigation schemes are concerned, no doubt major and minor schemes are sanctioned and once a particular item finds a place in the budget, we take it that that item will be expended, it may lapse, it may be taken over to some other item or to the next year. When giving effect to that particular irrigation scheme it must be the duty of some officer in the department to give information then and there to the Ministers concerned by referring to the concerned departmental officer as to how these schemes are progressing and if there is any delay. This will avoid all questions of unnecessary chagrine to the persons who will receive the benefit of these irrigation schemes or development schemes. I hope this also will have to be taken into consideration.

“ These are the two points which I wanted to refer, Sir, preparatory to my remarks about the supplementary budget. Of course, it may be said that this may not fall strictly under ‘ criticisms of these supplementary demands.’ But there is no other opportunity for us except by way of putting questions with reference to each and every department in which there has been such a kind of delay, and troubling the Hon. Ministers. Of course, they will not consider it as a trouble and they would call for special reports and they would give satisfactory answers and see that redress is done where grievances exist. Anyhow, I think that this may be avoided if some kind of attention is devoted to those two points. No doubt, the expenditure has been incurred and there is this supplementary demand because the main allotment was not sufficient. But the more important thing is as far

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as the allotments that have already been made are concerned we must know whether sufficient expenditure has been incurred, whether that expenditure has been incurred in time and if there is any delay, what is the reason for that delay. I have no doubt that the Collectors or the other officers on the spot who are concerned will see to it. Of course, we have to depend upon them a very great deal. But there is the other side also for the Hon. Ministers to see that this is done. That is why I suggest this.

"The next thing which I want to say is this. I do not want to reply to the criticism of my hon. Friend, Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao with reference to Prohibition. I say it is a pet aversion to him. I do not want to reply to that."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—"I would like to know how long the hon. member will take to finish his speech."

SRI K. NATARAJAN:—"Only two minutes, Sir. I want to implore along with other hon. Members of this House the Hon. Minister of Education about the restoration of the supply of mid-day meal. It has created a great deal of prejudice. Sir, the poor people deserve it. If the Hon. the Finance Minister, the Hon. Revenue Minister and also the Hon. Minister for Education sit together, I think they will be able enough to find out separate provision for this or in substitution for any other provision which they might deem not urgently necessary. That is worth the trouble taken. That is all I want to say. On account of this abolition many poor families have suffered. I, therefore, recommend that this may also be taken into consideration by the three Ministers concerned. If they sit together this question can very easily be solved."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—"The Council will now adjourn and meet again at three of the clock this afternoon."

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

The House re-assembled with the Chairman (Sri H. M. Jagannatham) in the Chair.

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a single point to which I drew attention during the discussion of the Budget last year and also during the discussion of the supplementary budget last year. But I am sorry to find that neither the Hon. Finance Minister nor the Education Minister is here now."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"They will all come now. I shall report to them what the hon. Member says in the meanwhile."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU:—"Sir, during the discussion of the budget estimates and the supplementary estimates last year, I drew the attention of the Government to the fact that young

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colleges in Andhra Desa should be given some subsidies, but nothing seems to have been done so far. I drew the attention of the Finance Minister that funds should be allotted for the building of the Rajahmundry College, but I do not see any item at all in the budget about that. (At this stage the Finance Minister entered the House.) What happened to that fund, I do not know—whether it has lapsed or has been used for the building of any other college or any such thing. But unfortunately we are only straining our vocal cords and that is all. I do not find anything about the college in this supplementary budget also. Likewise there are young colleges in Bhimavaram, Ellore and Bezwada and they are all in need of some subsidy from the Government. There is a college at Bhimavaram for which the public have subscribed four lakhs of rupees and the college requires one and half lakhs of rupees more to have B.Sc. courses opened in it. Cannot the Government give this sum? One and a half lakhs of rupees is nothing for the Government. There is another young college which is progressing and prospering in Ellore. It is maintained by public subscriptions. The municipality and the district board have been contributing towards the building. The college authorities approached the Government for funds, but nothing has been done up to now. I do not know where all the petitions that have been sent to the Finance Minister as well as the Education Minister and the Prime Minister are going. Perhaps they are all filling up the waste paper baskets of the Government. I do not want that the same thing should be done by responsible Ministers. I want to draw the kind attention of the Government to the urgent need of giving a subsidy of not less than Rs. 1½ lakhs to the young college towards its building fund so that it may open B.Sc. course there. It is all that I want. I hope that another supplementary demand will be brought forward for this subsidy or at least the Hon. Finance Minister will kindly remember this question when the next year's budget is prepared and do the needful."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. Chairman, this supplementary statement of demands for grants is proof positive that the Ministry is continuing to drift. The Government do not appear to have any new ideas to grapple with the essential problems which a popular Government ought to grapple with. There is very little difference between the estimates presented by this Ministry and those presented by the bureaucratic Government which preceded it except in two matters in both of which I think they are in the wrong. In my opinion a popular Ministry must have definite plans to tackle problems of the province, namely, poverty, illiteracy, sickness and social degradation. There is so much of poverty in this country. We have had a debate on the food problem a few days ago and I suggested to the Government that instead of merely trying procurement of food and other temporary measures to solve the problem, they must have a five-year plan for production so that the province will be self-sufficient

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in food and each district will in itself be self-sufficient. I find nothing in the estimates that the Ministry has changed its mind and that they have any definite plans for assisting food production by cultivating the cultivable but uncultivated land and intensifying the cultivation of lands already cultivated. There is very little expenditure on manure or seed or irrigation or mechanical implements and financial assistance to cultivators who cannot on account of poverty efficiently cultivate their lands.

“ There is also very little evidence that the policy of the Government has changed in regard to cloth. The previous Government tried to lock up all mills producing cloth and concentrated attention on khadi. This Government, however, thought that that policy was wrong, but still there is such a scarcity of cloth and the Government does not seem to be anxious to spend any money for assisting the people to produce cloth, whereas they are trying to nationalize the transport industry to which I shall refer later. But they are still on their pet socio-political theories about prohibition. Sir, I am certainly against collecting money from the poor in the shape of excise revenue. Previously when the total revenue of this Government was about Rs. 30 crores a year this Government collected a little more than half of it—Rs. 16 crores—under excise revenue. This revenue was paid by 5 to 10 per cent of the population, the poor wage-earners and from that point of view, the collection of this revenue was sinful and should not have been collected. But, Sir, prohibition goes further. They say that you should not drink. Instead of being interested in telling the people not to get drunk, the remedy that is prescribed by the Government is to ask the people not to drink at all. If over-eating is bad, the remedy cannot be not to eat at all. Such a pre-scription will not cure the disease. I do not see anything wrong in a labourer having a drink of toddy. Toddy after all is food and why should he not have toddy? (Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan : Question.) It may be that the Hon. Dr. Rajan who is a Minister and who is himself an eminent doctor may be doubtful whether toddy is food or not. I am not myself a doctor of medicine and cannot be an authority on the matter. But doctors differ and many doctors have told me that toddy is food. (Dr. U. Rama Rao : Question.) Drunkenness is of course bad. If toddy is food, I do not see why the labourer should not have a drink of toddy. I certainly say that he should not be taxed for it. The propaganda to-day that nobody should have a drink is specious and it is one which will never succeed. A propaganda for creating public opinion and enforcing the law that people should not get drunk might be effective, but a propaganda that people should not drink will not only be not effective but in my opinion it will demoralize a very large section of the people, because even the policeman or the excise man who is trying to enforce this prohibition are people who would like to have a drink. You will find people liking to have a drink being persuaded not to drink by people who would also like to have a drink. There will be a lot of illicit distillation and you will have to put an army into the field to enforce

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prohibition and see that people do not drink instead of seeing that people do not get drunk. I personally think that the Government in enforcing their socio-political idea of prohibition in this manner are wasting public money. I have, therefore, to oppose vehemently with all the force I can command, the supplementary demand for propagating the idea of prohibition in the manner the Government are doing.

"Sir, supplementary demands should be of one category or another; the first category is where the amount voted in the budget of a grant was found to be insufficient for the purposes of the year; and the second category is where a need arose for expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget. Except the nationalization of the transport industry, there is no new service here at all. But you will find, Sir, that everything here relates to 'new services.' But the demand is only for Rs. 100. But actually it is not a new service and therefore the demand should not be for Rs. 100 but for the actual amount which is required. To get over the trouble of giving an actual estimate to this House and the other House the Government have asked for Rs. 100 only. (Interruption.) My hon. friend says 'hundred-rupee mania.' I do not want to use that language, but I wish to say that it is not correct and it does not seem to be strictly honest even to say that every demand covered in the estimate is a new service . . ."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"It is proposed to adjust the amounts by reappropriation. We do not know what the expenditure involved will be at the end of the year. So we are asking for a token demand of Rs. 100. In March, a supplementary demand for the entire scheme will be presented. I have stated in the introductory memorandum that 'in respect of the expenditure of the latter class, the practice was to present a demand for a token sum of Rs. 100 if it was found possible to meet the balance of the expenditure by re-appropriation from saving within the grant'."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I am much obliged to the statement made by the Hon. Finance Minister. In paragraph 4 on page 2, it has been stated that 'the supplementary statements now presented to the Legislature relate to expenditure on new service schemes sanctioned in the course of the current year and for which there is no provision in the budget estimates for 1947-48. I want to know whether the Ministry which is engaged in the so-called 'new service' schemes have thought of the problems before them and have actually invented and initiated any new service for which new demands are required. I think they have done nothing except inventing one, namely, nationalization of the transport services. Except that there is no new service in the estimates. The Government even at the fag end of the year are unable to say with regard to these services what the actual expenditure will be. Therefore, they want only Rs. 100 to be granted leaving it to them

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to spend hundred thousand rupees or one crore of rupees on this hundred rupees. Such a demand is not in order and should not have been made. The Government should have estimated the actual expenditure and taken the House into their confidence.

" Now, Sir, as regards the new policy of nationalization of transport service I do not think the Government have in mind any principle which would guide them in the nationalization of any industry. Sir, if an industry is essential for the service of the public and if that essential service cannot effectively be carried out by private enterprise, in the interests of the public, then there will be some justification for the Government to nationalize the industry. Then too they should hand over such service to local bodies, like the Corporation of Madras in the city or the municipalities in the districts. In my opinion there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for the Government to run the service themselves for the purpose of making profits. That is not the business of the Government. The business of the Government is not to enter into competition with private enterprise either in trade or in industry, but render service to the public.

3-16
p.m.

" Sir, the other day I asked a question of the Hon. Minister for Transport whether after he had initiated the nationalization of transport service in the city, the Government were able to bring about a reduction in fares, but the answer given was in the negative. If the Government could run an efficient service and at the same time effect a reduction in rates to the public, then that would be a national service. I find that the Government have estimated a profit of Rs. 7.8 lakhs in their scheme of nationalizing the city transport service without making at least a three pies reduction in the fares. That I submit, Sir, is quite wrong. If you nationalize a service, you must make it a public service and I do not know whether there is any member of Government or any member in this House who would say that the service now rendered by the Government in certain routes in the city is in any way better than the service rendered by the private transport operators before and even now. In what respect is the Government transport between, I ask? Have they put in a larger number of transport vehicles, or do they give better accommodation? Are the Government buses running more regularly or have they reduced the rates? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" My hon. friend evidently does not travel in any of the Madras buses, does he? "

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I shall be glad, Sir, if the Hon. Minister for Transport will hereafter use the Government buses only and if so, his car may be given to somebody else by the Government. But I do not propose to travel in buses myself. To find out public opinion, it is not at all necessary to travel in buses. I personally think that the Government who are now very much hardpressed for time even for attending to the more important problem of food and other major questions which are facing them, could ill-afford

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to waste their time and energy on this question of nationalization of transport and could have very well left it to private operators and could have effective control over them, so that they might be able to render very good service to the public. If that could not be done, at least they should have handed over the transport service to the Madras Corporation in the city and to the municipalities in the mufassal and made them responsible for rendering effective service to the public.

" Sir, in the City Municipal Act as well as in the Local Boards Act, there are provisions for these local bodies to undertake transport services. But no reason is given by the Government why the Corporation of Madras could not undertake such services in the city. Could not the local bodies and municipalities undertake these services in the Province and render greater and more efficient services to the public? Probably no attempt was made in this direction. The Government would be wasting their time and energy in undertaking the whole business in their own hands. I would suggest that one or two routes may be given to the Corporation in the city, one or two taken by Government and the other routes to private operators and find out, in competition with one another, which service is more efficient and in the best interests of the public and then consider the question of nationalization. Instead of that, they are doing everything themselves. The Government have no plans; they have no experience and I daresay that when the next estimate is submitted to the House, you will find not a profit, but a loss on this trade. In fact, Sir, I find on going through the receipt column in one of the statements supplied that there is an item of Rs. 42,000 on account of the sale of aged vehicles. I can hardly understand how vehicles which were sold at scrap value could bring in Rs. 42,000, because under the Motor Vehicles Act no man can put into service a transport vehicle on the road without a permit and I am sure nobody is going to give him a permit for that aged vehicle and in the face of the Government's policy of nationalization. Sir, I have always thought professional men including lawyers and doctors and Government servants are failures in business. Anyhow, Sir, the Government are not competent to carry on trading operations in general though in certain exceptional circumstances like the food crisis they are bound to do so. But, Sir, to enter into competition with business and trading interests and to spend lakhs and lakhs of public money on the same without any experience, without any aptitude for business and without any inclination for it, is, I submit, not doing justice to the tax-payer.

" Again, Sir, as a student of law and as one who has studied the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, I am inclined to think that the Government in trying to nationalize transport services, are acting arbitrarily without rhyme or reason and interfering with *quasi-judicial* bodies in the exercise of the discretion vested in them.

" Sir, in December last, the Government issued an order that all permits should be given only temporarily for four months although the Act provides that temporary permits should be given

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only for temporary purposes and that all other permits can be given for three years. This matter even went to the High Court and one of the High Court Judges remarked that such an executive order interfering with the discretion of the transport authorities who are *quasi-judicial* bodies, was wrong. Nevertheless, I find that the Government have not yet seen their way to withdraw that order. By their constant interference with such *quasi-judicial* bodies, the Government have made their position confusing and difficult, so much so, that the transport authorities in the Province do not know where they stand at present. I say that the Government ought to lay down a definite policy in regard to this matter for the whole Province, so that the transport authorities, the private operators and the men who are in charge of transport vehicles in the province should know what exactly the proposals of the Government are and where they stand in relation to them.

" Sir, I have known several cases in which this Government have issued orders and communiques, one contradicting the other and one differing entirely from the other. I can understand that a popular Government must function and must gather their experience by means of trial and error. But, Sir, there must be a limit to that method of trial and error. If you have to get all your experience by trial and error and waste lakhs of rupees of the taxpayer, then I say, you are not at all justified. The Government must have a definite policy and a definite plan in such matters and must carry them out on right lines. They have, so far as I know, no settled plans and they do not know their own minds. As I said at the beginning, they have been simply drifting and are continuing to drift. Let them not drift. The most important plan or programme that I can think of, which this popular Government have put forward and which has differed from that of any previous bureaucratic Governments, was their asking people not to drink toddy. The taking over of the transport services in the Province is yet another experiment which they could have very well left to private operators and local bodies. Sir, I should like to utter a word of warning to-day that these transport services which have been taken over by the Government in their own hands will only afford opportunities for the Government to extend their patronage to some people by way of appointments and the like, but they will not in any way do any good to the public, and ultimately the Government will find that only public money has been wasted and that they are not in any way better off by the nationalization of the motor transport.

" Sir, I go further and say that this policy of the Government is against the spirit of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939. It was not the intention of the Legislature at all that the Government should enter the field of competition with private enterprise. In fact, certain provisions of that Act will have to be amended in order to enable the Government to nationalize motor transport as has been done in Bombay and in the Central Provinces. Here everything is done by executive orders and if the Government find any

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difficulty to move forward they simply pass an executive order to remove that difficulty. I again repeat that it is wrong to nationalize the transport services without amending the Act. Finally, Sir, I would again suggest that it would be better if they would hand over these services to the local bodies than take upon themselves the responsibility of running them in the city and elsewhere."

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—
" Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to participate in the debate but for certain remarks that fell from my hon. friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, who, I am sorry to see, is not here at present. But, Sir, his remarks were such that they must necessarily lead to a certain amount of confusion of thought among the members on the Treasury Bench, if not elsewhere, and I thought it was for me to speak out on this question very plainly, so that there may be no confusion whatsoever in regard to the issues involved. Sir, our criticisms of the Government measures should be, and I hope they will always be, responsible, for we hope that they will be responsive to our criticisms and I am not one of those who believe that the duty of an opposition is to oppose and that the duty of a Government to ride roughshod with a majority which they have always at their command. That is not the spirit of democracy and that I hope, will not be the spirit in which this House, at any rate, will work the democratic institutions that are committed to its care. Sir, when I particularly refer to the remarks made on the subject of education, I feel that this is one of those occasions on which I may sincerely congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister and the Hon. Minister for Education for having brought these supplementary demands. Sir, these supplementary demands have been necessitated because changes have been effected after the Budget has been passed and I fully realize the implications of these supplementary demands. My hon. friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao took exception to the fact that the second grade college at Tellicherry has not been raised to a first grade college earlier. Sir, I know the amount of discontent in the people of Malabar and I think my Hon. Friend the Minister for Education will endorse the statement that there were a good many people who were very anxious that there should be a first grade college in that part of Malabar. Malabar, as we all know, is one of the most advanced parts of the Province in matters of higher education. There is only one college there—the Government College at Palghat—which is at one extreme corner of Malabar. Therefore when the question of raising the Government Second Grade College at Tellicherry was mooted out, the University was more than ever glad to give every possible assistance although there were contradictory orders in the beginning in the matter of raising this college to the first grade.

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p.m.

" Secondly, Sir, when it came to the question of the Lady Hope College, I was exceedingly glad, although I have no personal connexion with that college, that the Government took over that college. It is not fair that a Women's college established for the

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first time in Andhradesa should be left to drift and should be left in the hands of the municipal authorities. Our own experience with regard to these institutions is, Sir, that it is wiser for local bodies not to take the responsibility for collegiate education; and I am glad to find from a correspondence, that the Government also are more or less of the same view. I think it was a first-class move on the part of the Government when they came to the assistance of the Lady Hope College—I think it has since been re-named, I do not mind whatever the name is; I am more concerned with the facilities that are afforded to Andhra women—and I think that was the best way in which they could have given assistance to the students. The hon. Member said that the Hon. Minister said at Cuddapah that there was not finance forthcoming for the college. Sir, I have pleaded that there should be a first-grade college in every district in this Presidency. The only two districts that had no colleges were Ramnad and Cuddapah districts. I was myself responsible for giving every encouragement and pushing forward the scheme for three colleges in the Rayalaseema areas. Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has been saying that he comes from Rayalaseema, forgetting that there are others also coming from there, and that when the time for it comes, they will also fight for Rayalaseema. My point is this: that while I entirely endorse the suggestion he has made that Cuddapah should have a college, whether it be purely a Government college or an aided college, I cannot be a party to a statement that some other college should not be lifted up or that some other college should not be located in some other centre. I think we are acting on too narrow, too parochial, too much of the limited vision in regard to higher education.

“ If we can send our boys and girls to America, if we can send our boys and girls to Great Britain and other parts of Europe and even to Japan, what on earth is the meaning of saying that colleges should be located here or there? While self-sufficiency and regionalisation of higher grade institutions will be all too good to the country, I do not think there should be any impediment by anyone if Government should have colleges in different areas. In this connexion, may I refer to one remark—I do not know if the Finance Minister was correctly reported in the Press at that time—which he made as a complaint about the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras that he had not helped to get the agricultural college located in the Ceded districts as he should have done, but left it to the Andhra University to have it located in Bapatla. Let me tell him that I am incapable of any such thing for the simple reason that if there was to be no agricultural college anywhere in the Andhra districts, my own opinion was that both Andhra and Rayalaseema would have been deprived of that college and Government would have given some excuse or other . . . (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi: ‘That is exactly what I meant’.) I am very glad to hear it was so that was the implication: but whether it is the agricultural or the engineering

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or the medical colleges, what I am insisting on is that the students of these different areas should have opportunities given to them to get admission into those colleges. And from that point of view, I welcome the move of the previous Government—I think it was the Advisers' Government—when one of the Advisers, Sir S. V. Ramamurti, incorporated a condition in regard to admission to colleges, that 40 per cent of the seats should be reserved for students from a particular area or 38 per cent from some other areas. That was a thing which commended itself to me because it was not so much the pushing forward of these higher grade institutions as the giving of opportunities for the boys in those areas; and it is on that plank that we should always look upon these things. I do not complain, Sir, but I should like just to refer to this statement, viz., 'As the Madras University did not grant affiliation for the Anantapur College, the students admitted into this college were distributed between the College of Engineering, Guindy, and the Arthur Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore.' This, so far as I can see, is not strictly in accordance with the facts. There has been no application for the affiliation of the Anantapur college in the form in which it should have been sent to the University; and quite rightly too, because it was not possible for the Government then to have satisfied the University in regard to all those conditions of admission which by statute any management is required to forward to the University before applying for affiliation. But the University of Madras realizing the need and realizing the steps that the Government had taken in regard to the furtherance of engineering education, were more than glad to give temporarily, sanction for the extra numbers to be admitted into the Engineering College, and it is going on; and it is my hope, as I know it must be the hope of the Hon. Minister for Education, that before the beginning of the next academic year, steps will have been taken to see that the Engineering College is shifted on to Anantapur, as it ought to be, and that the application would be coming to the University by the due date, viz., 31st October 1947.

“ Sir, reference was made to the Government college for Muslim Women. I am not now taking the question whether there should be a separate college for Muslim Women or not; but I am concerned with this, and I sincerely congratulate the Hon. Education Minister that he has been pleased, on representations being made, to suspend the order that he had once passed; and on the courage and vision which he displayed, I sincerely congratulate him. With regard to the Government college for Muslim Women, the position is that although it is a college restricted to Muslim women, under the conditions of affiliation by the University, at all times, 25 per cent of the seats should be reserved for non-Muslim students. Secondly, so long as there is no Muslim student coming forward for admission, non-Muslims should be admitted to the maximum limit. Why we have made this condition, I may just tell you: whether you provide for Muslim women seats in this college or not, it would only mean that you are creating more vacancies in some

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college and therefore to that extent, women will be benefited. Let us not think of Muslim and non-Muslim women. I am interested in the higher education of women as a whole; I know that at present there are very few facilities offered for higher education of women. I may tell you that there are at present nearly as many women students in men's colleges as there are women students in women's colleges and the University authorities are of opinion that the time has come when women students should not, at any rate in the intermediate stage, be asked to undergo co-education in the various educational institutions. I certainly feel that every college for women should be encouraged. May I say a few facts about this Muslim college for women? The total number of students in that college to-day is 155, of whom 141 are in the intermediate standard and 14 are in the B.A., 9 in the junior B.A. and 5 in the senior B.A. The reason why there has not been a sufficient number in the B.A. classes, in my opinion, is that the college has just started and it is only next year that the Intermediate students of this year will take up the B.A. classes; and secondly, the affiliation granted to the college for the B.A. class is only in one or two subjects which cannot possibly draw a sufficient number of students. The subjects are Economics and Islamic History and Culture, and you cannot expect a large number of women to flow in for these two subjects. If some of the subjects of science, particularly Physics, Chemistry or any other Science or Mathematics had been included—which of course was not possible—then perhaps you could expect a greater number of applications and I can only say that the numbers ought not to be taken into consideration in regard to the subjects in which a college is affiliated. Therefore, the best thing will be to encourage the further affiliation in certain other subjects in the college with a view to make the college offer a greater amount of facilities for women students.

“ Then, Sir, numbers have been stated as a reason why this college should be closed as a first-grade college. I may tell you if you look over the staff required, in Economics, in English and perhaps some other subjects, some of them are engaged in the Intermediate classes also, and 141 students in the Intermediate classes is not a small number. If the idea is to cut the money that is being spent on this account—I do not know the Finance Minister's view in this matter—but I want to point out this fact that if it is the idea that the money that is spent on the college should be proportionate to the number of students who are reading in the college, none of our colleges would have come to its present position. Sir, twenty-five years ago, I want to tell this House, the St. Joseph's College at Bangalore for Women, had four students only. It was then being conducted by a Mission body. The St. James College in Palamcottah had eight students only and the Islamiah College at Vaniyambadi had only twelve students. Still, they went on. The Muhammadan College itself had only 28 students, but to-day we know the strength has increased beyond anything we had expected. My plea therefore is to look at this

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thing from the point of view of the future and take a large vision of things; this is not the time when we can afford to close any college in any subject, whatever may be the immediate financial difficulties with which we may be faced. I am all in favour of the Hon. Minister suggesting that under the circumstances, it is not possible for us to run these institutions unless a greater amount of fees are collected. The question was raised whether no other countries have had free secondary education, no other countries have had free primary education; why is it that the Government here in the year of grace 1947 want to extract fees. Let me answer: those countries do not have prohibition and advocates of prohibition like my friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. This is the fundamental difference. One-third of the revenue of Great Britain is made out of this illicit drink—I do not say illicit, but drink of which the true content was liquor. One-third of the revenue comes to £80 or £90 millions. As a matter of fact, I do not want to go into this question of prohibition. Many members have spoken about it and I have already made my views clear in regard to it and I have not changed them. Prohibition is too huge a subject to be discussed in the course of a debate on the supplementary budget. I have pleaded for rationing in drink, and I do plead for it again. If you ration everything, if you can ration food, if you can ration rice, sugar, the clothes that you wear, the petrol that you have to consume, if you ration everything, I think the rationing of drink is not going to be such a great disaster. After all, if one were to have drink, he must be honest enough not to be ashamed of it. If I myself want to have something of it, I shall be free to approach the shop-keeper and say: 'here I want to have 2 drms.' or whatever the Hon. Minister will be pleased to give me. But that will not solve the problem.

"The Government have committed themselves; there are forces behind, which make it impossible for them to change the policy. I do not know to what stage we may go to, but I will not elaborate on that point. But I do wish on this occasion to sound a note of warning. Nothing has disturbed the equanimity of this Presidency so much as these educational facilities being denied to this or that particular part of the country or this or that particular section, call it whatever you like. Unfortunately, nobody is putting in a plea for somebody else, so far as educational facilities are concerned. Rayalaseema wants it, but it does not plead for Andhra; Andhra wants it more, but it pleads for itself and does not plead for Rayalaseema; similarly, there are many who plead that educational facilities have been suddenly given up here or there, but nobody has so far pleaded for the under-dog and nobody seems to worry about the lowest in the educational sphere. But I plead for all, and I will continue to plead for all, whether it be in the lower or the higher grade teaching institutions. This year has been a year of great stress and strain in the educational sphere. Hon. Members may have known, by some great good fortune it was possible to open seven new colleges at the beginning of the academic year. Let me tell you this: All the seven colleges except one which was a State college, are private-managed; they have not got a pie of grant from

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the Government. They have come to the University and spent amounts ranging from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,75,000. They have fulfilled all the conditions that the University imposed; they have agreed to pay the scales of salary we are insisting on—professors from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 and lecturers from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250, practically the same as are obtaining in Government posts. I am most grateful to them and I and the Syndicate have promised to give every facility to them to become permanent institutions of the University. But that was only a temporary measure. Next year you will find there will be assault and battery on every Minister's door—I hope I shall not be there to face it, for I wish to run away from that post—the number of candidates, as far as we can estimate from the sale of S.S.L.C. text-books, is going to be phenomenally high. The Government have, and I think with great reason, given exemptions on a very large scale, for candidates to appear for the S.S.L.C. I know the figures were estimated on the basis of the Director of Public Instruction's report that something like 45 to 50 thousand text-books would be required. But to-day, we have printed nearly 70,000 text-books and I know what that means. You are going to have nearly double the number of candidates appearing for the S.S.L.C. examination. I would ask the Government to look ahead and see what they are able to do in this matter. And when these candidates pass out, by whatever standards you may adopt, the number of students who are likely to come up for higher education will be so phenomenally large that unless we all strive hard in this matter—I do not throw the blame on the Government, I do not throw the blame on the University either—but all of us including the Government—and the Government at least after the 15th of August has become a people's Government—as I said, all of us including the Government, the public and the University authorities and the colleges, should realize that now is the time for us all to do the best we can to increase and expand the educational facilities and the educational institutions, not by making them overcrowded—because in all institutions to-day which are overcrowded, we are not able to know who is the student and who the teacher. Therefore, I venture to suggest that we should think of other institutions to cater to this need.

“ Sir, I will only conclude by saying that education is one of the most important things we can possibly take note of. Whatever else we may plead, unless we get to the stage when we can meet this great demand, we will be leaving our children in a period of about ten or fifteen years to the tender mercy of Providence and we will have to see that idle hands find some work. Unless we are going to do it, we shall be courting a disaster. I, therefore, welcome this supplementary demand on Education. I request the Finance Minister and the Hon. Minister for Education to take stock of the situation. No doubt, in one of those meetings where the Finance Minister happened to preside, he said he would give his best consideration for giving more grants to the colleges. I congratulate myself and congratulate the Finance Minister most heartily on having provided five lakhs of rupees as endowment.

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Sir, Government have said that they are finding it more and more difficult to provide for what are called grants-in-aid to institutions under the University. The University is giving Rs. 10,000 a year as endowment. When such is the case, is it asking too much of the Government to give this grant-in-aid? Unless you give at least half the cost of the building equipment—there are many bodies like the University interested in building colleges if some help is given to them—there will not be more colleges in this Province. I hope the Hon. Minister for Education and the Hon. the Finance Minister will agree to revise the rules governing these grants-in-aid so that greater number of educational institutions—technical and technological institutions and institutions for higher education, not necessarily affiliated to the University—will be opened to the public before next March.

“ Sir, I take note of other remarks made on this subject and I want to say only one word more on the subject of nationalization. I do not know whether the policy of the Government in regard to nationalization will cross with their policy with regard to all other things which they have now begun. The Hon. Minister in charge has agreed to enforce nationalization of transport. I know he has brought it under his control so that he may go on dragging the buses and other transport services to a safe harbour. I am not speaking on behalf of the bus companies or the transport companies nor I am decrying the whole scheme of nationalization. It is time that there is a programme evolved by the Government to know how far they can introduce this nationalization. It is unfair to the bus companies to incur the expenditure on getting new buses, incur the expenditure for servicing the existing buses, if they do not know whether three months or so afterwards they are going to be deprived of their buses. Therefore, I ask the Hon. Minister for Transport if you are to have a plan for nationalization of transport—as some of us have lately agreed—you should have a Board. Then, Sir, there should be systematized method of introduction of nationalization, district by district, if you will, route by route if you will and company by company if you will. Take every one of us into your confidence, so that the public, the bus-owners and the transport companies will be in full possession of all these facts, will be able to adjust themselves and know beforehand what is going to happen to a large number of their buses. Unfortunately, Sir, conditions are such that the transport charges are officially something but the actual paying charges are raised four times more. In these circumstances, it would be better if all these people have due notice to know what is going to happen in future. I trust that the Transport Minister will look into this aspect of the question, programme in advance and give details of the programme of how he will take over these bus companies and transport companies and how he will be prepared to run them.

“ One word more, Sir. Sir, the Hon. Minister was giving certain figures about State transport which to my mind are unfortunate. I know the Leader of the House will try to rectify them.

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Nobody knows exactly the truth about the figures of profit and loss within the last period of two months. Sir, to-morrow, if the bus-drivers' meeting ask for an increase in wages, the Transport Minister will have more headaches. If he realizes that, during the last two months, their charges came to Rs. 10,000, that the expenditure came to Rs. 2,500 without realizing that the bus will probably run out of life within the course of about 18 months, then he will understand how difficult it will be to work this control. Dr. John pleaded for a decrease in the rates of fare for the passengers. Of course, it is too easy to plead. We plead for the general public but we have also to think from the point of view of actual administration; when it comes to the question of actual administration, it is different. 'Administrators' cannot afford to be public agitators. This has got to be driven home into every one of us. In whatever sphere of action we may work, I say, the members on the treasury bench and all those who support them from behind as well as the members of the opposition have got to realize that our position in the Legislative Council is that of administrators and not agitators. I thank you, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

" Sir, I am grateful to this House for having taken so much interest on the Education Demand. That interest has been consistent with the interest that has been evinced by this House ever since the beginning of the session. Sir, I would like to refer in brief to certain matters referred to by three of the speakers who have spoken on this demand. I am grateful to Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar for the very elucidating way in which he put certain arguments which I ought to advance and for having put them more beautifully than I could have done it. It is true that there is such a great rush in colleges, but I would like this House and the country to appreciate what has been done in meeting this great demand for seats in colleges. In the year 1942 or 1943, the number of seats provided in all the several colleges was only about 5,000. Only five years have elapsed and we have now provided for nearly double the number. Let me tell you what steps we have taken. With the kind co-operation of the University, we have established a fourth batch for the practical scientific courses and wherever necessary and possible, we have taken many other steps to increase the number of seats in the colleges but the increase in the number of applicants is in much greater ratio and so we are not able to provide for all of them. And so, it does not mean that we are not taking any steps. It only means that the country is going for higher education with much greater speed than we can possibly provide for. In this connexion, Sir, I must refer to the number of philanthropic persons who have come forward to open colleges of their own at great cost. I had recently been to Ramnad to open two such colleges. I must congratulate all those people who have come forward to establish such colleges. It only proves their great enthusiasm which they have brought to bear on the subject of education. I would appeal to all those people having money and who would like to invest them in charitable

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enterprises to come forward to do so. It is possible for rich men who have a lot of money and who want to be philanthropic to do a great service to the Government and to the country in this matter.

“ Sir, about the college for Muslims, I am glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, raised that point. I am also glad to know the views of the Vice-Chancellor in this matter. To-day, I must make the position clear. It is true that in the circumstances as they are to-day, there are only three Muslims on the rolls of that college. It was also pointed out—perhaps legitimately—that the number of Muslim girls is only three out of the fourteen and the number of non-Muslims far greater. But, I may say that the college was started specifically for the benefit of Muslim girls, because there was a great demand for it. We have estimated to spend nearly Rs. 24,000 on this college. Doubts have been raised as to the figure. I may point out, at once, that for the B.A. classes alone, three M.E.S.s and three Assistant Lecturers—I speak from memory—are necessary. Two M.E.S.’s and two Assistant Lecturers’ posts have not been filled up because qualified candidates are not available. In view of its economic position, Government took steps to close the B.A. classes in that college but in view of the representations of the Muslims and the girls studying there, Government thought they could rescind that order but it was made clear that if sufficient number of Muslims do not come forward, Government would have to consider the necessity for discontinuing this college. The continuance of this college will depend upon the proper strength of Muslim girls in that college.

“ Now, Sir, I would like to refer to certain points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. He referred to teachers’ salaries. Let me tell him that I am anxious that we should have a very good type of teachers. If we are to have a very good type of teachers, then it is necessary to pay them well also. I am anxious to pay them as well as possible in order to attract men of the right type to the teaching profession. But unfortunately, we have got our own limitations, limitations to our wishes in this matter. Financially, they are very material limitations which we must count. In this connexion, I want to say a word of appreciation about the very good work that has been done by the teaching profession in this country. I would also like to say that we have considered their claims but we cannot go beyond what we have given in the present circumstances. After all, what we have done is a thing which should set right their legitimate grievances. I may point out, before the war, the teachers in aided schools were paid only Rs. 14. But, to-day, we pay them Rs. 30 per month with a dearness allowance of Rs. 16, the total emoluments thus coming to Rs. 46. With regard to primary schools, before the war, the teachers in those schools, were paid only Rs. 18. But to-day, we pay them Rs. 40 plus Rs. 16 dearness allowance per mensem. So, considering what we have been paying them in pre-war years, the increment is considerable. It is true that the prices have gone very high to-day and that they are suffering. But, we are unable to give any further increment in

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the present state of the finances of the Province. In fact, this Government is now working with a deficit of seven or eight crores. So, I want my well-meaning friends to understand the position and when we go forward with any great scheme of reorganization of education, we shall always bear in mind the needs of the teachers and when the financial position of this Government permits, we shall do our best for them. Now, Sir, let me come to secondary schools. My hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, went on presuming, without acknowledging for one moment, that we have compelled the management of aided secondary schools to pay at local board rates. The local board rates were not previously applied to aided schools and many of them felt the hardship because the Government did not take steps to lay down any level or any graded payment for the aided secondary school teachers. The Government have now come forward and compelled the managements to pay at district board rates and it is not a mere compulsion which cost the Government nothing. The Government have issued an order that they would come forward and pay two-thirds of the grant instead of the existing half of the net grant. So, the Government have gone forward in the matter of secondary schools to-day.

Then my hon. Friend referred to the question of difference in the salaries. There are two categories of teachers and they are those employed under the Government and those under the local boards and the difference between them is this. Government servants have to be transferred from one district to another. For instance, one may be in Coimbatore to-day and the next day for administrative reasons he may find himself in another part of the Tamil districts. All the district board teachers, on the other hand, do not suffer from this disability. This is one of the reasons for this difference in salaries. Again L.Ts. may be posted as Deputy Inspectors. These are therefore a few considerations, though I do not say these will satisfy hon. Members. I only wish to point out that there is a rationale behind these things. Complaints have no doubt been received and representations have been made that so far as the aided school teachers as well as teachers in local boards and municipalities are concerned, there is no further opening in any other sphere beyond reaching their maximum. I may say in this connexion that the Government have gone into the matter and have considered the justice of their claims and proposals are under consideration to set apart a certain percentage of Junior Deputy Inspectors for secondary grade teachers. Similar seats have been provided for L.Ts. for recruitment as District Educational Officers. It is, therefore, our endeavour and our wish to see that we give as much scope for the teaching profession so that people may rise to the heights in their own profession.

Now, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, made certain complaints about new colleges. I am sorry the hon. Member was not present when Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar made his speech. If he had been present when the Doctor spoke, that would have made my position easier, because the hon. Doctor's

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speech was an able vindication of what the Government did in respect of these colleges. The Government took up the starting of the colleges in places where they would be in the best interests of the country. In regard to the one at Tellicherry there is a reason behind it. About Cuddapah I would like to say a word or two. When we considered the position some months ago there were only two districts, barring Ootacamund which has a population of 4½ lakhs. Though it consists of four taluks, the Nilgiris was considered a small unit and we did not consider it as a district for the purpose. Previously there were three districts without any college but with the opening of a college in Kurnool there remained only two districts. They were Ramnad and Cuddapah. In Ramnad fortunately three colleges have sprung up this year and it looks as if a fourth college is coming up there. But, in regard to Cuddapah, I had a talk with certain friends and I told them, if you are anxious to have a college, you will have to come forward and help us by way of building a hostel. If that is done, we shall see what we can do to bring out the existence of a college next year. I am very much interested in the establishment of a college in that district and I request the co-operation of the people because that is also necessary for the success of the scheme. After all it is the people of the district that are to be benefitted. We are not going to get money from the poor people. There are rich people in Cuddapah and why not they spend money on such a philanthropic and good purpose. I hope the Committee that has been formed to bring about the existence of a college in Cuddapah will be in a position to put up proposals to enable the Government to open a second grade college in the district.

“ Now, in regard to his remark about the Anantapur Engineering College, I was not able to catch what my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao said. I think he said that orders of Government were issued to the effect that further requirement of staff to the college should be stopped. Is that what he meant? ”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Proposals for further additional staff for the college for 1948-49 need not be sanctioned.”

* **THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR** :—“ No, Sir. No such orders have been issued by the Government, but it is true that it would be difficult for the Government to continue the Anantapur Engineering College now at Guindy from next year. We are taking very energetic steps, if possible, to secure certain buildings in Anantapur so that, we shall be able to transfer this college to Anantapur during the next year. We are taking all possible steps in that direction and I do not think it is necessary for me to give any more details of the proposals.

“ Sir, now I must refer to the position of local boards in regard to implementing increased salaries. It is true that many of them, especially, the Ceded districts, are financially poor. The Special Officers, who are Collectors just now, of the various districts, in the Ceded districts, came and saw me some weeks ago and put up their proposals to meet the deficit, which were considered by the

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Government. It is true that many of the districts have been finding it difficult to pay the increased salaries to teachers. Government also have their financial difficulties. I want both the Government and the local boards to face the situation. I do not think it is a matter for anybody to complain. Some remedy must be found and it is a matter between the Government and the local boards.

“ Then, Sir, I would like to refer to another matter and that is the question of fees. I am not able to understand the point of view of my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. He wants more colleges, more equipment for educational institutions, more buildings and when the question of tax is raised, he would oppose it. (Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao : ‘ I have pleaded even for taxation, Sir ’). I ask whether it is justice to tax the commonest man. In the matter of sales tax we are taxing the poor man, the ordinary man earning 4 or 8 annas. He is not getting any more from either a secondary or higher education and you want that man to be taxed. The people who are benefitted by this education, is the middle class and the higher class people, because these are the people who study in colleges. You want to tax the poor man? Why? Is it because he is poor and cannot complain? Is it because that he is not as vociferous as some people who think that they can complain to members of this House that they should not be touched? I say this is not the way a democracy should function. It is but fair that those who get the benefits of education should pay a little more if necessary because it is they that will get the benefits instead of putting any extra taxation on the poorest. We cannot tax on incomes, that is a Central subject. Excise income is disappearing. The only thing that we have is the sales-tax which affects the poor as well as the rich. So, Sir, I say that in these circumstances Government are very well justified in increasing the fees. And, Sir, while making this increase in fees, we wanted to provide also for the poor by saying that 20 per cent of the amount that comes from fees should be reserved for giving half-fee scholarships to poor students. So, Sir, it is not only some more income that the Government had in view but they also thought about the provision of affording facilities to poor students alongside the increase in fees.

“ Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say except to reply to the remarks made by my hon. Friend Mr. Govindacharyulu. Let me disabuse the misunderstanding that is prevailing through out the Andhra. I was asked whether Rs. 6 lakhs were provided for building the Government Rajahmundry College and whether after this Ministry came into power that amount was cancelled or diverted to some other purpose. That is not true. The Engineers put up a scheme for the college as well as for the Training College buildings. The estimate went up to Rs. 36 lakhs under the old Ministry. It came before us. The Standing Finance Committee and the Government thought that Rs. 36 lakhs was too much for the college and we sent it back to the Committee. We provided Rs. 6 lakhs for this year and said that the estimate should

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be reduced to Rs. 20 lakhs. I understand the Engineers have submitted plans to the Director of Public Instruction which have not yet come back from him. The amount provided for the Rajahmundry College stands in the budget and we can start it even to-morrow. So, Sir, I wanted to remove that misunderstanding, if any should exist in the mind of any of the hon. Members, and which may exist outside this House. I would like to clear doubts in anybody here or elsewhere that the amount set apart for the Agricultural College has been cancelled or withdrawn. It remains in the budget and it will be utilized for the purpose when the scheme is taken up.

"Sir, I think I have covered almost all the points mentioned by hon. Friends and I am grateful to them for having raised them and giving me an opportunity to remove some of the misconceptions that existed in regard to those matters."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—“ Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the course of the discussion to-day I seem to have come in for a good deal of attention, some of which are friendly, but most of which are rather hostile. So far as the portfolio of Prohibition was concerned, I may say that most of the members of the Opposition were speaking with divided voices. My hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu will go the whole hog and say, ‘no prohibition at all’ and my Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao will say, ‘let us have prohibition but that no expenditure should be incurred on ameliorative activities for supplementing the policy of prohibition.’ As regards Dr. John I do not understand what he exactly wants. So far as I could make him out, he would want moderate drinking in a way. On this question of moderate drinking I may say that as soon as the Congress Ministry came into power in 1937 and for nearly a quarter of a century before it, there have been various attempts to introduce prohibition. There had been moderate drinking in various districts of the province for the last 20 years as a result of the Congress programme and various temperance measures were undertaken to implement it. But, all of them failed. When the Congress Ministry came into power they took the bull by the horns and said, total and complete Prohibition shall be their goal. That is how Prohibition came into the political map of the Madras Province in 1937. Subsequent history we all know. The Adviser regime suspended the policy of prohibition launched by the Congress Government in 1937 and it was only in October 1946 that the Congress Ministry definitely committed itself to gradually implementing the programme of prohibition by which in the course of three years the province will completely go dry. According to the schedule, in October 1948 there will not be a single liquor shop, there will not be a single toddy or arrack or foreign liquor shop throughout the length and breadth of this province. That is the position so far as the Congress Ministry is concerned and it is too late in the day either for Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu or anybody else to try to stop the tide of progress which is now running and flowing in currents and channels. On

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the salutary aspect of prohibition there can be no two opinions. Dr. John himself referred to this in some way. Where does this 17 crores come from? It comes from the poor liquor addicts, about 4 to 5 millions, who are one-tenth of the population and who are the poorest of the poor, the labouring classes, the Harijans, the agricultural persons, the day-labouring classes and I ask, Sir, is it proper to collect these 17 crores from these poor, wretched and ill-educated persons? But my hon. Friend Sri Suryanarayana Rao talks about reducing fees for secondary school students. Sir, for collecting 17 crores of revenue from 5 millions of people, they really pay something four times, that is, 70 crores of rupees. Think of the ruination of their families and also their state of moral, physical, mental and spiritual degradation in the bargain. So I believe, Sir, the question of the salutariness, the beneficence of the policy of prohibition is beyond question, beyond cavil, beyond any challenge. Now, Sir, I shall take the arguments of my hon. Friend Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao. It appeared to me, Sir, the latter part of his arguments contained the sting in the tail but I believe the remedy was also in the tail, the medicine was in the tail. According to his statement there should be no salutary measures at all. Why go about villages doing this and doing that? On the other hand, Sir, the policy of prohibition is a social reform. It is a policy, Sir, the success of which depends upon public co-operation and public sympathy. It is a question of re-education, a question of moral education on new lines. It is also a question of implementing that wider policy, that wider outlook to enable the prohibition programme to be ultimately successful and beneficent measure. Sir, my hon. Friend Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao in the latter part of his speech referred to various constructive suggestions which would implement the policy of prohibition. He says collect half and half of the amount grant to schools, or assist in organizing some social work. It is exactly what we are doing. We have our rural games and village officers have been instructed to see to the better living and better environment in the villages. After all, Sir, you know that some outside stimulation is required and it is to provide that that we are having these ameliorative activities. Sir, fortunately for me, only in to-day's paper there is a statement issued in the name of no less a person than Mahatma Gandhi, who, with that pre-eminent thought which is so characteristic of him, has said :—

‘ We cannot eradicate the evil merely by passing laws. The addict will manage to satisfy his craving anyhow. Those carrying on the black trade will not readily give it up.

Therefore the following steps will have to be taken simultaneously in order to make a success of the reform :—

- (1) Passing of requisite law.
- (2) Educating public opinion.
- (3) Opening in the same place of grog shops refreshment rooms selling harmless drinks and providing newspapers, games, etc.
- (4) The income from the sale of intoxicants should be spent on cultivating public opinion in favour of Prohibition. It is criminal to spend the income from the sale of intoxicants on the education of the nation's children or other

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public services. The Government must overcome the temptation of using such revenue for nation-building purposes. Experience has shown that the moral and physical gain of the abstainer more than makes up for the loss of this tainted revenue. If we eradicate the evil we will easily find other ways and means of increasing the nation's income.'

"That, Sir, provides my answer to Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao's criticisms on the policy of prohibition.

"Then, Sir, let me refer to the other question of nationalization of transport. Dr. John, Sir, has pleaded very eloquently for the private operator. Sir, he argued on behalf of his client in the High Court of Judicature at Madras and he failed. Now I think no better success will attend the arguments which he has advanced. As the lawyers know, Sir, the courts do not accept hearsay evidence. Unless evidence is direct concerning to things which a person has actually seen, it is rejected as hearsay. Dr. John, I think, attempted to describe the difficulties of some persons in Government transports and they are mostly secondhand reports. He has not experienced them personally and I, therefore, rule them out of order. But apart from that, I remember a conversation which took place in the bus very recently. 'How is it that only one anna is charged for the greater comforts in this bus?' asked a traveller and the conductor replied 'This is a Government transport.' I believe, Sir, that is a complete argument to the criticisms levelled against our nationalization policy by Dr. John. He tried to put us in fear, tried criminal intimidation, by saying that we will be put to a loss by this nationalization scheme. He showed some figures and said that Government would be incurring huge losses. He said that crores of rupees spent on iron in the vehicles will become scrap iron and only some Rs. 40,000 could be obtained for them. I submit, Sir, our figures are given on a modest scale. Sir, the Government will run the vehicles for four years and after four years the Government will consider the vehicle as non-roadworthy and the same engine and machine may be taken over by a private contractor or some other private operator who may run it in the mufassal as a bus for his own route. There are various uses to which a bus which is found not roadworthy according to Government standards can be put to. Therefore, I submit Sir, Government's programme is based on a modest estimate and not on an unworkable and extravagant basis. Then it is suggested that it is a commercial scheme and how can Government work it? After all, we must remember that the Post offices and the Telegraph offices are national institutions. They are managed by the Central Government on a commercial basis at enormous profit and therefore, Sir, we have such illustration, the tangible illustration of the postal and telegraph departments which are nationalized institutions and recently the Central Government have nationalized the railways also. You will remember, Sir, that not only in India but also in other countries of the world this nationalization of motor transport has been taken on hand. Yesterday I read in the *Manchester Guardian Weekly* an account of the nationalization scheme which has been accepted by the Houses of Parliament and I submit, Sir, it is a colossal scheme when compared to which the scheme of this Government is a mere small

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affair and I therefore submit, Sir, it is nothing extravagant that we are proposing to do. Not only in England, but in Hyderabad and Travancore, in all these States and Provinces they have implemented this scheme of nationalization and they have been working the same with a reasonable measure of success and I am sure, Sir, that other provinces, for example, the Central Provinces, Orissa and United Provinces are also talking of nationalization. If we fail, we shall fail in good company with the British Houses of Parliament and with various other provincial Governments in this country. I may assure my hon. friend that we shall not fail and nothing will retard us or divert us from proceeding with this scheme. This nationalization proposal has been arrived at after due deliberation and consideration.

“ Then, Sir, I may lastly take up Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar's comments. I think the whole House is grateful for the thoughtful and constructive suggestions that he has made. He has asked that the scheme of nationalization should be published sufficiently in advance so that the operators may not be unfairly affected. I may tell him that so far back as June or July last year we issued a communiqué setting in detail the scheme of nationalization and I believe, Sir, that scheme in the various stages is now fairly wellknown and well understood by the public, viz., before 31st December 1947, we hope to take over the entire buses in the City of Madras, partly in October, partly in November and the rest towards the end of December. In fact, we had a conference with all the leading operators in the City of Madras and announced to them our proposals. They have agreed to co-operate with us by running such number of buses as are necessary to supplement our contribution till the 31st December 1947 and therefore, Sir, so far as the City of Madras is concerned, there is no lack of clearness or understanding on the part of the operators. So far as Madura to Kodaikanal and Coimbatore to Ootacamund are concerned, we have announced that Madura and Coimbatore will be taken up by January 1948. This fact has been mentioned in the communiqué and I believe already intimations have been given to the operators concerned that their services will be taken over by the Government in January 1948. So far as the rest of the province is concerned, there are two alternatives before the Government. One is to take over the entire bus service in the districts adjoining Madras and then go on further towards the further regions of the Province. That, Sir, would have been advantageous to the Government. It would have been easier to undertake this scheme not only from the administration point of view but also that of the bus operators. It would be unfair to abolish at one stroke of the pen all the bus operators in certain unfortunate districts and leave the others to go on. So we have adopted a system of rationing as in other cases. By April 1948 our process of nationalization in 10 leading districts will be in force, 20 per cent of the buses in that area being run by the Government and the remaining buses being left to private operators. In a period of five years we hope to nationalize the entire bus service in the Province. My hon. Friend Sri Suryanarayana Rao wanted

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more funds for collegiate education. The hon. Sir Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar wanted increased grants for college education. I say, Sir, that this system of nationalization will in addition to providing a reasonable comfort and adequate transport service to the people of this Province, at the same time provide a source of revenue to the Government. Therefore, from the point of view of the well-being and comfort of the people, this will be a source of income for implementing the programme of prohibition. This scheme of nationalization is sound and salutary. If the Congress Ministry has been able to achieve anything solid and substantially good for the well-being of the masses of the people, it is on account of its prohibition programme and it will be on account of the nationalization of motor transport that is to be introduced shortly. Various other schemes we have on hand but immediately and in a tangible way we are trying by these two schemes to serve not only the higher classes of people but the masses in the villages, the coolies in the streets. These schemes are therefore salutary and I hope they will have the support of this honourable House."

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* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Mr. Chairman, I have only to answer one or two points that have been raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, regarding the demands standing in my name. He said that I have provided for 2½ lakhs of rupees for the purchase of hundred pumps and he enquired why I did not purchase more; he asked for the number of applications that I have received. Regarding that, I have received 850 applications. We have placed an order for a consignment of 100 oil engines and the firm has promised that they would be able to supply them only in batches of 10. We made every effort; we enquired of many firms, Indian and non-Indian, in India and elsewhere but on account of difficulties of transport, the United Kingdom, Canada or the United States' firms were not able to supply our demands. Regarding the despatch of these hundred engines, Messrs. Parry & Co. have informed us that we might expect them during the course of the year if possible and so we wanted to settle the offer and have placed orders with them in anticipation of your approval. I may add, Sir, that even when we are half-way in the matter of deliveries, we shall place orders for more, in the hope that the permission of the House will be available for such a purchase.

" Regarding the casuarina plantations, he made some caustic remarks. His objection seemed to be directed against the unreality of wanting to reduce cow-dung consumption for fuel purposes. If not for this, at any rate for other things, the fuel problem is becoming very serious. I only told the House the other day nearly ten lakhs of tons of firewood are consumed every year to make two lakhs of tons of charcoal for lorries and trucks run on charcoal. Madras City is getting firewood from distant places like Malabar and unless we have a scheme for planting more to meet our mounting demands for firewood, we shall not be able to cope with the position. It is on account of that we have taken up this ten-year plan of plantation in Rameswaram. We have already planted a lot in Chingleput and in Guntur districts. So

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far as Ramnad is concerned, it is necessary to feed the number of mills in that area; there are a number of factories in Tinnevely and casuarina has to be the only source of supply to them.

"My hon. Friend was speaking about our electrification policy and the way in which we made more electrical energy available for industrial purposes rather than for agricultural purpose. He is not altogether correct in saying so. Every attention is given to agricultural needs and first priority is given to them, as well as for rural development schemes. But the difficulty arises in this way. A particular quantity is provided for a particular area; and where that load can be taken for agriculture, first priority is given to it. Naturally the balance left over cannot be taken over to some other place for we have not got the materials to extend the main; so in such an event, we pass it on to industrial purposes so that it may not be wasted. So it is not correct to say that we do not pay any attention to agricultural needs in the matter of distribution of electrical energy. My hon. Friend said, supply of electricity to agricultural purposes apart, that the supply of electric power to the licensee at Trichinopoly was not correct. There again, he was moving in a vicious circle. It is absolutely necessary that we should not grudge it. So far as the S.I.Ry. is concerned, if we do not make them the supply they require, they will have to use up fuel, either coal or firewood for it; so that by our supply we have conserved so much of these for other purposes; so we cannot grudge it. Thermal stations have to be maintained and coal will have to be used for generating electricity; when you give them the electrical energy required by them, it means that so much of coal could be made use of for industrial purposes. The electric licensee at Trichinopoly supplies for the whole district and how will he be able to supply to consumers unless sufficient load is forthcoming—a good portion of the consumers require it for agricultural purposes. I assure my hon. Friend that every attempt is being made and first priority is being given to agriculture.

"Regarding raising the status of the second-grade college of Tellicherry to a first-grade college, I must plead guilty to the charge that I used my influence with my colleagues for that purpose. Any one who knows conditions in Malabar—a district with 42 lakhs of population where the standard of literacy is tolerably high with students begging for admissions in the various colleges—would not have grudged it."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Mr. Chairman, I intervene in this debate for a few minutes only. Hon. Members would remember that close upon the introduction of prohibition, I, as Minister for Public Health, had a survey carried out regarding the health of the people of the prohibition districts; called for reports from officers and for statistics with regard to the health of the addicts who had been denied drink. The investigation—a very careful one—was carried on for about six months and at the end of that period it invariably revealed beyond doubt that the health of the addict had improved considerably, he was not the

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worse for having been denied drink, their digestion had improved and their physical condition, far from being deteriorated, had improved and not only that, their mental condition was absolutely clear. That was the unanimous report received from the districts where this very careful survey had been carried out.

"Another thing I must state is that the freedom to drink in case a person wishes to have it, is even now not denied. I may point out that for religious purposes as wine for churches for sacramental purposes has been allowed and that amount that is necessary has been given. Those private individuals who are used to it and would like to have them are given licences. Even Governors of Provinces were given licences when they went on tour to prohibition districts. The whole idea is that the Government should not be a party to sell drink and get profits therefrom. When there is a shop in a poor locality, what is it that the Government does? In the name of revenue for the State, we place the temptation of drink near the very door, which is absolutely immoral. The idea was trotted out by Dr. John that toddy was a good food; I may say at once that a more incorrect statement cannot be made; toddy is never a food. It has been trotted out in the past that toddy contains vitamin B; but all that has been blown to pieces. It is all a sinister recommendation for continuing drink in the name of virtues which it did not possess. I may straightaway say that toddy is neither food nor does it contain any vitamin. It is not as if we are sticking to it as a fad; he said that we have not created public opinion in its favour. I can say without fear of contradiction that in this country, in spite of the degeneration that has set in the conscience of the people, the members of the public are still alive to the fact that drink is a curse and it is a sin. If people drink, it is not because they want it but because they cannot help it. Go to any village and ask the wives of the people that drink, ask anybody, man or woman, who has responsibility for running a family, they would undoubtedly tell you that drink is a sin; the Hindu community considers it a sin; the Muslim community considers it a sin; the two major communities consider it a sin; anybody who knows something about the results of the drink habit can easily say that it is a very wretched habit. Government must never indulge in its sale for the sake of profit. My hon. Friend started the usual phrase which is very familiar with a paper of ours and called it a socio-political experiment. I think he simply copied words more wrong than any that had ever been uttered. It is neither a social experiment nor is it a political experiment; that is an experiment in the whole welfare of humanity; therefore, it is human welfare that is attempted and not as he said social or political experiment that is being carried out."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—"The Hon. the Finance Minister."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Chairman, what about the leader of the Opposition?"

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MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—"No, he is not speaking; is the hon. Leader of the Opposition inclined to speak?"

MR. K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—"The Hon. the Finance Minister."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Mr. Chairman, in deference to the wishes of this House last time when I presented the supplementary demand, I thought it fit that I must take the House into confidence by presenting the supplementary demands in the middle of the year. So far as I am aware, this is the first time that a popular Ministry has presented these demands in the middle of the year, the previous practice being that this was done at the end of March at time the Government will come forward with a statement giving details of supplementary demands and take the vote of the House. But this House wanted that the Legislature should be taken into confidence on all huge items of expenditure and in accordance with it, I brought forward this statement,

"I am glad to find that the criticism levelled on many items justify the expenditure on those items; nobody has charged us with extravagance. I have been hearing the speeches now and on the last occasion and every member wanted me in particular to be the watch-dog of the finances of the province. I do not know whether I have discharged my duties to the satisfaction of the House or not; but I can say from the debate of to-day that nobody has charged either me or the Ministry with extravagance; nor have charges been made of appointments being sanctioned which ought not to have been sanctioned or of keeping on or creating departments which must have been scrapped. It is the greatest consolation to the Ministry and me and I believe that we have justified the expectation of the House in safeguarding the financial position of the province. But, Sir, it is not a very pleasant duty for the Finance Minister to be scrutinizing every item that is brought forward before the Government, the pressing demands made by various heads of departments and Secretaries to Government, to scrutinize them in a very critical manner and perhaps in a hyper-critical manner and finally say 'No' to them. They are dealing with the departments and they know the urgency of the matter; their subordinates and their departmental heads have been pressing for them year after year and the Secretary of the Department comes up again and says: 'I want it immediately'. In such circumstances, it is rather difficult for the Finance Department and for the Finance Minister to say 'No' and yet, Sir, I may take the House into confidence and tell you that occasions there have been and many such where the Finance Department had to do it and we had to tread upon the tender corns of other departments. I feel that holding the purse of the province and popularity are poles apart and yet being in that place, we are trying to do our job as dutifully as we can. I may also say that we have a Standing Finance Committee composed of six and presided over by the Hon. Premier himself and every little item, even though it

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p.m. might have been sanctioned by the Finance Department and the Minister, sometimes it is scrutinized again by all the six Ministers and turned down. As I said at the beginning, it is not a very pleasant duty to say 'No' to our own colleagues or to our own departments which are pressing. But we are also aware of the financial difficulty of the province; the financial position is not all too bright to be enthusiastic about and we have been pressing on the Government of India for various items for small moneys. We are also aware of their difficulties, their defence expenditure, their feeding charges of the Punjab evacuees which is mounting to crores of rupees. We do not know how they are going to finance these daily mounting items of expenditure. I am not quite sure whether at the end of the year we will get our 625 lakhs of rupees which they have promised for our post-war development schemes. I had talks with the Finance Secretary to the Government of India and also with the members of the Government there. Their position too is not very bright.. They are also in an awful mess, as it were, due to partition of Pakistan and Hindustan, and partition of Punjab and Bengal. We too are in a very pitiable state of affairs, if I may say so. We had an ambitious scheme of post-war development to the tune of 134 crores of rupees relying on certain data and certain basis. When that programme was chalked out for five years, most reluctantly we had to reduce it to 80 crores of rupees, and I am not quite sure whether we will be in a position to finance even this 80 crores of rupees in the next five years. The reserve left with us by the Advisers' Government is slowly dwindling day by day, and at the end of last year from 31 crores it came down to 21 and odd crores of rupees, and at the end of this year, i.e., 31st March 1948, it may even go down further. I am anticipating a deficit to the tune of four to five crores of rupees or even more because some time ago our department made a rough estimate; and before the bonus scheme was announced, it was estimated that we might incur a deficit of three to four crores of rupees. But this bonus is going to add to our deficit and ultimately it may leave us in a deficit of six crores of rupees. While I congratulate myself that we are getting more money from all heads of revenue (except perhaps one or two), e.g., sales tax, electricity, transport, etc., yet the position will be that we will be left in a deficit of five to six crores of rupees. What are we to do? It is not this year's phase alone. It is an annual phase, I am afraid. Next year too we will have to face a deficit. The demands from the departments are really pressing. Mid-day meal is important, college education is important, compulsory education is important, and public health services are important. Agriculture, Industry and every department is doing very important work, and unless they are done, the much felt need of the people will not be satisfied. We are aware of that situation. But where is the money to come from? It is very easy for the leaders who do not agree with the policy of prohibition to say 'you have invited this trouble; somebody blundered and you are thundering here'. That is Mr. Narayanaswami Naidu's argument. Sir, it is not fair to get money from those wretched

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people in order to maintain your women's colleges and technical colleges. It is not right that the poor tiller should be fleeced in order to maintain the General hospital here or an electrical thermal station at Bezwada or somewhere else. It is not the intention of the Government to get money from them so that we can have these fine institutions. Well, we recognize the need for these institutions, but the money must come from somewhere else and not from these poor people. So, we are trying to do our little best to get more revenue from sales tax and perhaps from entertainments tax, which again will go to the local bodies, and perhaps some little money, for a year or two, from the betting tax, which the other day the House wanted to prohibit totally. We want these items of money to finance our schemes. Therefore, Sir, it is not a very pleasant thing to be telling the House that here is the financial position of the Province going weaker year after year, and yet to be told repeatedly by the oppositionists to prohibition policy that 'you are responsible and prohibition is responsible for this deficit; otherwise it would have been heaven on earth'. Sir, it is not a correct approach. I want my friends here and in the other House to take it for granted that we are bent upon continuing our prohibition policy, but yet at the same time we would appeal to them to suggest ways and means to retrench if possible, and to save, if possible. We are also aware that during the war many departments have been strengthened. Perhaps new departments have been started and only to-day Mr. Suryanarayana Rao's question elicited information that the increase was so much during the war years. We are aware that if necessary some retrenchment and some reorganization will be possible. We have taken steps to set up a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, and I am glad to tell the House that Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, who is taking so much interest in these matters, is also put down as a member of that committee—perhaps the only member representing this House. We have given him an opportunity to scrutinize the working of these various departments, and it is open to him to suggest ways and means of retrenchment and bring down our expenses to a normal level in consonance with the financial position of this Province. It is also open to him to suggest anything, perhaps pension system, provident fund system, salary scales and grades of salaries, and make any recommendations he chooses. We expect the committee to begin functioning soon, and we are eagerly awaiting the recommendations of that committee. Some time ago during Mr. Prakasam's time, it was proposed to set up a Cabinet Sub-Committee. But we thought we should not make ourselves responsible for this reorganization and that an independent and free committee should go into this question and make their own recommendations, and that the Government should take their decisions on these recommendations. So, we decided as early as April or May last that we should not have a Cabinet Sub-Committee to go into this question, and that an independent body composed of officials and non-officials must go into this question thoroughly and

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make its recommendations. Sir, I am too anxious to make retrenchment. We are all anxious to save expenditure. We want to spend money where it is most urgently needed. But urgent necessities of life have become so numerous that it has become very difficult to say which is urgent and which is not. One might say college education is important, another might say that public health services are very important, and still some others might say that agriculture is very important because the entire future of our country depends on agriculture. All these various demands are there, but I must tell the House that food and security are the most fundamental necessities of our life to-day. Without food nothing can be done. There can be no health services. These mean nothing to a hungry man. Likewise, if there is civil commotion, if there is Hindu-Muslim trouble or if there is agrarian trouble, if there is massacre and internal disorder (Interruption), your agriculture, your education and everything will be paralysed. Nothing can be done in that state of affairs. We are witnessing those very sorry spectacles in the Punjab, and we do not want anything like that to happen in our Province. So, it is the duty of the Government to see that no man is deprived of his daily ration of even that pittance of 8 oz. and we are taking all steps to see that we turn the corner in the month of October. So, anything asked by the Food Minister and the Food Department must have a high priority, and nobody can say 'no' to it. Likewise, the present situation of the country has to be taken into account. It is but right that we should strengthen our security forces; our Constabulary must be active and vigilant as there are whispers of brewing trouble from all over the country—from Hyderabad, from Bangalore, etc. Our internal situation is such that we should strengthen our Constabulary and give them the necessary equipment to meet any unforeseen emergency. So, Sir, food and security must have a very high priority. Of course priority is also given to other items, such as irrigation, agriculture, grow more food campaign, etc. I for one cannot say 'no' to my friend Mr. Shetty for his public health services, knowing as I do the insanitary conditions in rural areas. How can we refuse more hospitals being opened or more Sanitary Inspectors being trained, or necessary facilities being given in these courses. We are also incurring huge expenditure on the medical colleges because we want more doctors to take care of our rural parts, and necessary sanctions are being accorded to these items too. We are also painfully aware of the impending situation in next July when a large number of students are going to knock at our doors for admission. I am particularly happy that seven new colleges have come into being this year, and I hope next year too a large number of colleges will be opened in various parts of the Presidency. This is a very serious problem, and when you try to get a little money from the parents of those boys who are clamouring for higher education, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, who wanted me to be the watch dog of the finances of the Province, chastises me for getting that little money from

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the parents of those boys. He is also the champion of the non-gazetted officers. It is not as though we are not sympathetic to their demands. In fact, it is with tears in my eyes that I refused their demands. They wanted some little pittance. You may call it Independence Day bonus, or you may call it cost of living bonus or anything. They wanted some little bonus. But it could not be given. I have examined the position of the Secretariat Staff Co-operative Society here. Most of the Secretariat people are indebted to the Co-operative Society. They have told me that ninety per cent of the members of the society take loans from the society and they pay it perhaps by the end of the month. They have shown me the actual facts; they have shown me the statistics. They have shown me, how even the Assistant Secretaries of Departments, drawing a salary of Rs. 400 to 700, a rather fair salary, are unable to meet the demands of their household within their salary. When that is the position of the Assistant Secretaries, I need not dilate on the position of Superintendents, upper division clerks and lower division clerks. What shall I do? I have already said that last year there was a deficit, this year there will be a deficit, and even next year there will be a deficit. So, the question is, what shall I do? The Cabinet Salary Sub-Committee revised the salary only in February last and gave effect to it from January last; and that alone has cost Government several lakhs. We have increased the bonus. That again has cost us some lakhs. The bigger salaries we have revised. We have revised the salaries of constabulary and jail warders. All these things mean lakhs and lakhs and lakhs. I do not know how we are going to meet this deficit. If it is only for this year, I can say "pay it off from the reserve". But this is going to be an annual affair. That is why a retrenchment committee has been appointed, in which Mr. Suryanarayana Rao is a member; and I want him as a member of that committee to tell me what exactly I or rather the Ministry should do. So, Sir, I am not at all happy; because these things are there, and the financial position is there, and I have to reconcile these two. It is not a very easy thing to do either. Every time a Minister goes to the mufassal the people there give him enthusiastic reception. Thousands of people gather round us when we go to the districts, and they ask us for little things to be done, and we are unable to do them either immediately or within the next two or three years. I know when I went in 1937 to the districts they wanted me to do some things, which I could not comply with. In 1947 also those requests are repeated and even now we are not in a position to comply with them. Perhaps they generally reprint the old welcome address; and yet I have to ask them to wait, wait and wait; and thus the same old answer has to be given now. Why is it such a thing happens? It is not as if I am not in sympathy with them. Anybody's heart must melt when I say 'there is no money.' Yet sometimes when there is money there is not enough personnel. For example, in the engineering department, there is money, but there is not enough personnel. We do not have sufficient number of engineers, supervisors, overseers and draftsmen. We have now

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taken steps in that direction and Mr. Rudra has promised to furnish us in the next few months or few years a large engineering staff. So I hope the House will appreciate our difficulties and they will give their co-operation, which they have given us all these months. The very fact that so many members have participated in the discussion only shows that we are anxious to show all consideration and courtesy not only to the members of this House but also of the other House.

“ Lastly, I may say, our policy is not confined to ‘ nagaram ’ (urban) hereafter. As Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu said, our policy should also be for the ‘ Nadu ’ (rural parts). I may assure him that most of the Ministers in the Cabinet do come from the villages and we are all vitally interested in the welfare of those people. Even the Leader of the House, though he was living in Trichinopoly for a long time, has now taken to rural life. He is more rural in his outlook than most of us, and so all of us, without any exception, are rural minded, and we are anxious that we should do something for the villages and we are bent upon implementing that policy. But it is not so easy.

“ As regards electricity, ‘ Nothing for industries, but everything for agriculture ’; that was the slogan of Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu. A very good idea. But here, I must take a long outlook. If I invest some money I must get something immediately in return. If I invest in agriculture I won’t get any immediate return. But if I invest in an industrial town, an urban area, immediately I get something in return. The huge expenditure I incur in investing must be repaid not necessarily at four per cent or five per cent but at least at one or one-and-a-half per cent. So the question has to be viewed from that point of view also. So from a thermal station, if we take long distance high power lights to rural parts it will not pay. So viewed from that point of view we have to be careful in taking electricity to rural parts.

“ I have nothing more to say. I am thankful to the House for the valuable suggestions it has made; and let us hope with your willing co-operation Government will do their best in the present financial position.”

MR. CHAIRMAN (Sri H. M. Jagannatham):—“ The House now stands adjourned till 3 p.m., the 24th September 1947.”